

**Remarks:**

The present amendment is in response to the office action dated June 7, 2006 in the above-identified patent application.

In the office action, claims 1-20 were pending, with claims 1-4, 8-12, 16, 17 and 19 being rejected and claims 5-7, 13-15, 18 and 20 being objected to. Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 8, 9, 11, 12, 14, 16, 17, and 19 remain in this application amended, and as claims 2 and 7 depend from amended claim 1, also as claims 10 and 15 depend from amended claim 9, claims 2, 7, 10, and 15 are implicitly amended. In addition, claims 5, 13, 18, and 20 are cancelled.

**Summary of Examiner rejections and Applicant responses**

Turning first to the claim objections on page 2, paragraph 1, the Examiner objected to claims 1 and 9 for the claim including "means" as a prefix to "a rotational axis".

On response, claims 1 and 9 have been amended to delete "means".

Also on page 2, paragraph 1, regarding claim 17 the Examiner objected to the word "in" as being improper and should be replaced with "is".

In response, claim 17 is amended to replace "in" with "is".

Turning to the rejections over the prior art in the office action on page 2, paragraphs 1 and 2, the Examiner rejected claims 17 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,367,700 to Carnicero. The Examiner states that Carnicero '700 discloses Applicant's claim limitations including: a "channel extension beam -9" and a "means for manually selectively

rotatably clamping -3, 4", resulting in equivalent structure and broadly recited function, wherein the "manual external force" is not clearly defined.

In response, claims 17 and 19 are amended to more clearly define the manual external force by incorporating the limitations of claim 18 into claim 17 and the limitations of claim 20 into claim 19, resulting in the cancellation of claims 18 and 20.

In the office action on page 3, paragraphs 3 and 4, the Examiner rejected claims 1-4, 8-12, 16, 17, and 19 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 3,367,700 to Carnicero in view of U.S. Pat. No. 5,579,561 to Smith. The Examiner states that Smith '561 teaches a child-proof knob and that it would have been obvious to combine the latch of Carnicero '700 to prevent a toddler from opening doors to which the lock is applied.

In response, claims 1, 3, 4, 8, 9, 11, 12, 16, 17, and 19 are amended, with the 1, 3, 4, 8, 9, 11, 12, and 16 claim amendments incorporating the "ratchet cap assembly" to replace the "means for manually rotatably clamping or unclamping said beam..." and the 17 and 19 claim amendments adding the beam removal step to clarify the use of the "manual external force".

In the office action page 4, paragraph 5, the Examiner stated that claims 5-7, 13-15, 18, and 20 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the intervening claim limitations.

In response, claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 8, 9, 11, 12, 14, 16, 17, and 19 are amended and claims 5, 13, 18, and 20 are cancelled. As claims 2 and 7 depend

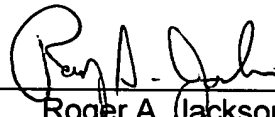
from amended claim 1, and as claims 10 and 15 depend from amended claim 9, claims 2, 7, 10, and 15 are implicitly amended. Thus, the limitations of claim 5 are incorporated into claim 1, making amended claim 1 allowable and all the amended claim 1 dependent claims 2-4 and 6-8 should now be allowable. Further, the limitations of claim 13 are incorporated into claim 9, making amended claim 9 allowable and all the amended claim 9 dependent claims 10-12 and 14-16 should now be allowable. Finally, the limitations of claim 18 are incorporated into claim 17, making amended claim 17 allowable and the limitations of claim 20 are incorporated into claim 19, making amended claim 19 allowable.

Applicant respectfully requests that a timely notice of allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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BY: \_\_\_\_\_



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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R §1.8

I hereby certify that the attached ***TRANSMITTAL OF RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION DATED JUNE 7, 2006 AND RETURN RECEIPT POST CARD*** is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as prepaid first class mail in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on this 7<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2006.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Roger A. Jackson", written over a horizontal line.

Roger A. Jackson